

(vii) Identification of para teachers and alternative schooling centres. Activities requiring financial support are funded under the programme. These proposals are included in the Annual Work Plan under the District Primary Education Programme for financial assistance.

(c) It is proposed to give a wider role for Village Education Committees under the new programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to be launched during the current financial year.

**Establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology in Rajasthan**

2277. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government established the first Indian Institute of Information Technology (HIT), on the lines of Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), at Allahabad;

(b) whether second similar HIT has recently been opened at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether Rajasthan has sent a request long back for opening such an Institute in that State, offering land free of cost, along with other facilities; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to open such an Institute in Rajasthan; if so, by when and what has been Government's policy in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The first institute was established at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh named Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management with the funding-pattern, resource-management similar to those existing in the Indian Institute of Technology. Indian Institute of Information Technology at Allahabad is second similar institute.

(c) and (d) A request has been received in January 2000 from

Rajasthan for opening such an institute in that state, offering land free of cost and a contribution of Rs 10 crore. At present the Govt, of India does intend to open any other new IITs.

**Claiming Additional Ocean Area**

2278. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government propose to claim additional one million square KM ocean area in accordance with the United Nations Convention of Law of the Sea;
- (b) If so, the details of preparations made for this purpose;
- (c) Whether Government propose to develop hi-tech unmanned submersible vehicle *in* the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government propose to claim the continental shelf in accordance with United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea.

The outer limits of the Continental Shelf have to be established by physical survey which involves the determination of the water depth and foot of slope through bathymetry and sedimentary rock thickness through seismic reflection and refraction. After delineation India should be in a position to make exclusive claim on the continental shelf. This could provide India with an area of more than 10 lakh square kilometers of continental shelf beyond the EEZ.

The Department of Ocean Development has initiated steps to delineate and present claim before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf within the prescribed time. In order to reduce cost every effort is being used to use the available data and to limit fresh survey to areas where data is not available. The existing data is being currently processed to facilitate the survey. Fresh physical survey has not yet commenced.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. A project for the development of a remotely operated unmanned submersible vehicle has been approved at an